

Golan withdrawal on agenda — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday Israel and Syria would discuss phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights and security arrangements at bilateral peace talks due to resume in Washington next month. Speaking on Israeli army radio, Mr. Rabin said: "We will discuss the phases of a withdrawal (from the Golan) without setting the final limits, along with security arrangements and the way in which the United States can contribute to the negotiations." Mr. Rabin added: "I think we will negotiate within a slightly different framework and not be content with general statements." Mr. Rabin urged Syria's President Hafez Al Assad to "convince Israeli public opinion that he wants peace, by agreeing to public meetings at the highest level between the two countries' leaders." Mr. Rabin told Israeli officers Thursday there existed a "better formula" for negotiating peace with Syria. He said he would go ahead with a referendum on the Golan Heights to "show the Syrians that they must do something to prove to the Israelis the seriousness of their intentions."

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Jordan made its points clear to Ross, Majali tells Cabinet

Anani reports on premier's briefing on Aqaba siege, peace talks and review of Amnesty assessment

AMMAN (Peta) — Jordan strongly protested to the United States against the continued inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping in the Red Sea during a recent visit to Amman by U.S. Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross, Information Minister Jawad Anani said Saturday.

"Jordan told the U.S. administration that the inspection of ships and the subsequent delay of the arrival of Jordan-bound goods were severely harming the Jordanian economy," Dr. Anani said in a statement following a regular Cabinet session.

Dr. Anani said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali briefed the ministers on his meeting with Mr. Ross in Amman on Wednesday.

In the course of discussing Jordanian-U.S. relations the prime minister focused on the question of the Red Sea in-

Accord reached on checking cargo of one ship at Aqaba

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Family of 9 killed, hundreds stranded in floods in Ramtha

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nine people were killed, hundreds were stranded and farmlands were extensively damaged in floods that hit the Ramtha area on the border with Syria, civil defence officials said Saturday.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) identified the dead as school teacher Awad Saleh Mayas, 36, his wife Badriyah and their seven children — five boys and two girls between two months and 11 years. They drowned as their car was over swept by a torrent at Bweidah district on the eastern parts of Ramtha, said a CDD official.

A department spokesman said that at least two hours of rain fell in the Bweidah dis-

sctions by the U.S.-led enforcers of the sanctions on Iraq and noted that an increasing number of ships was turned back for unjustified reasons, Dr. Anani said.

The minister said since the inspections started in August 1991, a total of 1,700 ships were intercepted but the inspectors could not find a single violation of the sanctions.

The inspection "is totally unacceptable to Jordan," Dr. Anani quoted Dr. Majali as telling Mr. Ross. "If the inspections have to continue then they should take place at Aqaba port and conducted by a neutral non-military party," the prime minister said, according to Dr. Anani.

Dr. Anani noted that Jordan had submitted a proposal for land-based inspections to the United States. He said the U.S. administration had promised to consider this matter

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seriously at the time and Jordan was hoping that a solution would be found very soon.

Dr. Anani said the question of the Middle East peace negotiations was discussed with Mr. Ross. Jordan demanded that concrete progress be achieved in the peace talks, he said. Jordan pointed out that the talks had so far achieved nothing because Israel refuses to enter into substantial issues and refuses to implement the agreements achieved thus far, he said.

"Jordan warned that unless substantial progress is achieved soon the whole peace process would come under suspicion," Dr. Anani said.

On prospects for the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington next month, Dr. Anani said Jordan had already announced that the Kingdom would give its approval through a collec-

(Continued on page 5)

Experts debate 'responsibility' for dismal state of Arab affairs

By Suhaib Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A charge that radical Arab regimes were responsible for the dismal state of affairs of the Arab World sparked a heated debate among political scientists and historians with expertise in strategic studies at a regional conference which opened here Saturday.

One of the key speakers, Wahed Abdul Majeed, said Arab states, to date, still suffer the repercussions of their failed options, mainly totalitarian and undemocratic regimes and dependence on the defunct Soviet Union.

Speaking at a session titled "Arabs in the American

Strategy" Dr. Abdul Majeed, of Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, said revolutionary totalitarian Arab regimes made the United States choose Israel as its first ally in the region.

He argued that in addition to the fundamental role that Israel played in achieving U.S. strategic aims in the region (confronting communism and the expansion of the former Soviet Union), the U.S. and Israel "share the same democratic and human rights principles."

He added that following the end of the cold war and in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Israel and the Jewish lobby in the United States today search for new

(Continued on page 5)

Bouez: Peace talks are sterile

CAIRO (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said on Saturday Arab talks with Israel were sterile and would make no headway before a self-rule deal between the Jewish state and the Palestinians went into effect.

"Until now, the negotiations have been sterile and going nowhere," Mr. Bouez, in Cairo to attend a regular Arab League meeting, told Reuters in an interview.

One of the main reasons for lack of progress, he said, was that Israel was not ready to make any headway on any of the other Arab tracks in the peace process until it sealed its peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), signed in Washington last year.

Mr. Bouez said the Jewish state had expressed reservations over negotiating on different fronts. "This is why the latest round of negotiations was virtually sterile," he added.

Speaking of the Arab

League meeting, he said the ministers of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon might consult to decide on a tentative date for their countries to meet to coordinate their policies ahead of any peace talks.

Mr. Bouez said that U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau, who went to Beirut on Friday, told him that Israel and the PLO could sign their deal on a limited Palestinian autonomy by April.

He said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might tour the Middle East before the next round of peace talks.

"The Americans believe that in mid-April the Palestinians and Israelis can sign an agreement and that Christopher may come to the region (then) to consolidate this agreement and to make a tour that would prepare for the resumption of the next round of negotiations," Mr. Bouez said.

Speaking of the Arab

(Continued on page 5)

Pentagon says Somalia mission accomplished, but criticism lingers

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Pentagon is withdrawing the last U.S. troops from Somalia with a sense of pride in a mission accomplished, but nagging criticism persists that the U.S. displayed a political lack of will during the operation.

"Before we arrived in December '92, hundreds of thousands of people had died as the result of starvation," said Major Joe Gradshter, the Pentagon spokesman in charge of African affairs.

"Since then it has stopped. We saved thousands of lives and put Somalia on the road to recovery," he said.

But military analysts say the operation ran into trouble when it turned into a holding action by peacekeepers under U.N. command.

The first phase, Operation Restore Hope, was a success they contend because it met clearly defined military objectives: U.S. troops landed in Mogadishu and secured the airports and opened the roads for relief convoys.

"We never used military force beyond the first phase of the operation," noted Don Snider, who served on the staffs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the national security in the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

"Mr. Snider, now politico-military studies director at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the lessons to be learned from the Somalia experience were political rather than strictly military.

"When you start to use milit-

ary force to pursue a poorly defined objective, you have a recipe for disaster," he said.

The search for General Mohammad Farah Aideed clearly illustrates the problem. The Americans let it be known that they knew where he was at virtually every moment.

The idea of capturing Gen. Aideed was achievable militarily, but was abandoned in favour of a policy that looked exclusively to restoring the peace, according to one military source.

"It simply was a mistake politically to go after Aideed. We did not use at all the military capabilities we had to execute that kind of search," said Mr. Snider.

As for the ambush Oct. 3 in which 18 U.S. commandos, by some estimates, several hundred Somalis were killed during a raid on an Aideed stronghold in Mogadishu, Mr. Snider said it amounted to another political disaster.

The high number of U.S. casualties prompted President Bill Clinton to order the gradual withdrawal of the troops.

Nevertheless, some experts point out that the U.S. troops were outnumbered eight or nine to one in the ambush and argue that from a purely military point of view the U.S. action was a success.

As Washington prepared to honour the leaders of the operation, the Pentagon had drawn up its toll: Of a force of 24,000 Americans, "only" 30 were killed in combat, and another 18 were killed and one missing in the crash of an AC-130 over Kenya March 14.



TOUGH DEFENSE: A Palestinian youth who tried to escape arrest outside the Old City walls of Jerusalem is dragged to the jeep by Israeli soldiers who roughed him up inside the vehicle before taking him away (AFP photo)

Ekeus close to notifying U.N. of Iraqi compliance

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) overseeing the destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic weapons is close to notifying the Security Council that all of Iraq's weapons banned under the Gulf war ceasefire agreement have been identified and destroyed, the head of the commission says.

Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus told journalists after a private meeting with the council Wednesday that Iraq had provided "good information about the missing elements in the chemical weapons programme." He indicated that after UNSCOM verifies the information, the U.N. data on all Iraq's weapons programmes will be complete.

In the past week, Mr. Ekeus met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on the political aspects of the commission's work while commission members met with an Iraqi technical team to discuss details of the long-term verification plans and review what information UNSCOM still needs.

Mr. Aziz was unsuccessful in getting UNSCOM to certify to the Security Council that Iraq — by accepting Resolution 715 outlining the long-term monitoring — had fulfilled all its weapons obligations in the ceasefire agreement. Iraq wants the certification so the council's mandatory oil embargo will be lifted.

UNSCOM has maintained that the long-term monitoring must be operational for about six months before any certification can be given to the council. The six-month criteria, Mr. Ekeus said, gives UNSCOM an opportunity to ascertain

that Iraq is complying with the long-term monitoring.

The six-month period begins after the first "baseline inspection" in each category at both military installations and industries that could have dual use military and industrial capabilities.

Mr. Ekeus explained, Iraq has said it was willing to work with the U.N. inspectors "tagging missiles, inspecting chemical facilities, putting in sensors" to get the monitoring operational.

"When we have been able to carry out the first six months inspection we will have a relatively good picture of Iraq's compliance," Mr. Ekeus said, but then it will be a "political judgment" for the council to decide whether to lift the oil embargo.

The United States has said that it will look at Iraq's compliance with all the U.N. Gulf war resolutions as an indicator of intent and will take that into account in the decision to lift the oil sanctions.

"It has long been our position that in examining whether to lift sanctions it will require a leap of faith by the council... as to whether Iraq will continue to comply after it begins selling oil," U.S. mission spokesman James Rubin said recently. "In making that judgment call, we need to take into account Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions because they are the best indications we have of intent."

Other council members — especially Russia, France and China — are more willing to lift the embargo once Mr. Ekeus says the monitoring is running smoothly. But most council members agree that Baghdad must recognise Kuwait before they can proceed on the sanctions.

British paper uncovers arms scandal evidence

LONDON (Agencies) — Three men were jailed for illegal arms trading with Iran despite British government knowledge of their activities in a case that closely parallels the "arms-to-Iraq" scandal, a London newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Independent said it had discovered that Britain's international spy agency, MI6, encouraged one of the defendants to continue his involvement in the project, and that government knowledge of the arms trading with Iran was suppressed during the trial.

The "arms-to-Iraq" scandal centres on claims the government broke its own rules barring arms sales to Iraq and tried to stop the policy coming to light in a court case involving executives from the Matrix Churchill engineering firm.

The probe, set up by Prime Minister John Major when the trial collapsed in November 1992 and headed by Lord Justice Scott, has posed a serious threat to Mr. Major's fragile government.

In the fresh allegations, the Independent said four men stood trial in 1988 for attempting to defraud Iraq by offering missiles for sale which they could not supply.

"Three of the defendants repeatedly protested their innocence and insisted that both the British and American authorities knew of the project," it said, adding the men were given jail sentences of between two and six years.

The fourth defendant, a businessman named John Taylor from Surrey, southern England, was acquitted, and has now provided fresh evidence of a lengthy relationship with MI6.

But his involvement with the spying agency was not disclosed to the jury during the trial, although it was discussed in the judge's chamber by the prosecution and the defence.

Before the trial, a lawyer working for the security services visited Mr. Taylor's lawyer, confirming the businessman had worked for MI6 for more than a decade, the Independent said.

Taylor said his involvement in the deal to sell Iran 5,000 missiles began late in 1985, when he joined the three other men who were negotiating to sell the arms through intermediaries, the paper said. The intermediaries later claimed they were the victims of an elaborate fraud.

Mr. Heseltine said he signed them only after Mr. Lyell assured him his misgivings would be brought to the attention of the trial judge, but that this was never done.

Ciller faces test in elections

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, battling an economic crisis and Kurdish rebels, meets her first electoral test when Turks vote in municipal polls Sunday.

Opinion polls suggest Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) and her junior coalition partner, the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), may muster barely a third of the vote between them.

Such a poor showing could wreck the coalition's credibility, already eroded by this year's economic trauma, and reinforce opposition party calls for early parliamentary elections.

A poll by Konda Research, published by Milliyet newspaper on Friday, showed that 59 per cent of voters wanted early elections.

It put the opposition Motherland Party led by Mesut Yilmaz in front with 23.6 per cent of the vote for provincial councils.

The pro-Islamic Welfare Party (RP) was next with 21.7 per cent, trailed by the DYP on 15.3 per cent and the SHP on 13.7 per cent. Smaller parties or undecided voters accounted for the rest.

Ms. Ciller, picked by her party in June to replace now-president Suleyman Demirel, has sworn to stay in power whatever the outcome.

The municipal elections cannot change the parliamentary balance, but Turkish commentators say Ms. Ciller's own party might dump her if the results show she has become a liability.

The narrowness of Motherland's lead suggests that Mr. Yilmaz has failed to exploit his parliamentary immunity to enable them to be protected by a state security court.

Six of the Kurdish MPs have been jailed awaiting trial on charges of hacking the separatist cause of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas and could face the death penalty.

"Every vote for the DYP is a bullet shot at the PKK," Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first woman prime minister, tells election rallies.



Tansu Ciller

ing prize, two opinion polls favoured singer and film-maker Zulfi Livaneli of the SHP. One gave former Mayor Bedrettin Dalan the edge for the DYP.

In a statement faxed to a Western news agency, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) said the latest police killings were tit-for-tat reprisals and for an Al Gamaa bombing and an attack on a policeman's club.

It said three of the victims were civilians dragged from their houses and shot, their bodies dumped with extremists to make it appear as if they had been shooting at police.

Nobody was injured in the bombing, near a Cairo Bank, but authorities said four policemen were killed in the attack on the policeman's club in southern Egypt. The extremists' message alleged that two officers and six enlisted police men died.

Both attacks were to avenge the March 17 executions of two Al Gamaa members for trying to kill President Hosni Mubarak last November. Police said only four policemen were killed or injured.

Al Gamaa claimed three innocent citizens arrested from their houses were later brought to the battle scene, shot to death and presented as terrorists killed in the exchange of fire.

More than 330 people have been killed in a two-year battle between government and Muslim extremists seeking to overthrow the largely secular regime and establish a strict Islamic state. Extremists target foreign tourists and banks to deprive the government from necessary sources of income. They also believe banks are against the rules of Islam, which prohibit fixed interest rates.

Friday night's three-page Al Gamaa statement denied responsibility for an attack on a historical Christian monastery in southern Egypt in which five Christians, including two priests, were killed in early March.

Government-owned media immediately held Al Gamaa responsible for the incident. It was used to prove that extremists want only to destabilise Egypt and create sectarian conflict.

The statement accused Christians instead of extremist Muslims of carrying out attacks reflecting their views that certain Christians want to provoke the government to suppress extremists.

"Al Gamaa, which is falsely accused by extremists, seculars and communists that it is behind such cowardly attacks, calls upon the regime to investigate the case and immediately reveal those responsible for it," the statement said.

Amid stumbling peace talks, Camp David is 15

CAIRO (AP) — As Middle East peace talks stumble along, the first Arab-Israeli treaty marks its 15th anniversary Saturday with Egypt and Israel still learning to live together.

Both sides were rewarded by the West, and still rank as top recipients of U.S. foreign aid with \$3 billion a year to Israel and \$2.1 billion to Egypt.

But Egypt paid dearly in other ways.

The largest country in the Arab World, with nearly 60 million people, was shunned for a decade by Arab hardliners for breaking ranks. Sadat paid with his life in 1981, the victim of extremists.

Extremism remains a threat. The Interior Ministry said earlier this month that Israel's ambassador, David Sultan, was among those on the death list of radicals.

It was Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who launched the peace initiative in 1977 with a dramatic flight to Tel Aviv, the first official visit to the Jewish state by an Arab leader.

An accord was hammered out the next year at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland with much mothering from President Jimmy Carter. The treaty was signed March 26, 1979, on the White House lawn by Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Thus Egypt became the first Arab state to accept the exist-

ence of the Jewish state since its founding in 1948. Israel, in turn, gave back the vast Sinai desert it seized in 1967 in the third of four wars between the two countries.

Their armies no longer threaten each other, and the border is open 24 hours a day. Israeli visits on holiday, Egyptian oil flows to Israeli refineries, scientists travel back and forth to academic conferences.

But there remains a coolness that Egyptians say will not go away until Israel makes peace with the rest of the Arab World. That helps explain why Egypt works so hard at its role as go-between in the current talks with other Arabs.

"We endorse the Camp David treaty, and we abide by it," said Egyptian political analyst Mohammed Al Sayed.

"But we are greatly concerned about the fate of the Palestinians and what happens throughout the Arab community that we are part of."

It was Egyptian President

Anwar Sadat who launched

the peace initiative in 1977 with a dramatic flight to Tel Aviv, the first official visit to the Jewish state by an Arab leader.

"A strategic peace was established 15 years ago, and it was proved to be strong and viable," he said. "Even in the most difficult times, we maintained diplomatic relations."

On the other hand, he added: "A treaty is a piece of paper that you have to translate into a living reality. That naturally takes a lot of time."

Indeed, Egypt still issues statements critical of Israel even as it carries messages back and forth in Israel's peace talks with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's largest underground Islamic extremist organisation accused police Friday of continuing a policy of summarily executing suspected radicals.

In a statement faxed to a Western news agency, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) said the latest police killings were tit-for-tat reprisals and for an Al Gamaa bombing and an attack on a policeman's club.

It said three of the victims were civilians dragged from their houses and shot, their bodies dumped with extremists to make it appear as if they had been shooting at police.

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Al Gamaa claimed three innocent citizens arrested from their houses were later brought to the battle scene, shot to death and presented as terrorists killed in the exchange of fire.

More than 330 people have been killed in a two-year battle between government and Muslim extremists seeking to overthrow the largely secular regime and establish a strict Islamic state. Extremists target foreign tourists, police officers, foreign tourists, Christian Copts and secular

intellectuals. Local and international human rights advocates contend the Egyptian government's record is bad due to arbitrary detention, torture and taking families of fugitives as hostages.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights raised doubts in a recent report over the deaths of 10 extremists whom police also claimed were killed in an exchange of fire.

The report quoted witnesses as saying some of the defendants were first shot at and then laid in the street to give the impression they were resisting arrest.

Al Gamaa's Friday statement vowed to continue its attacks, which it said were effective in that they forced the government to adopt its iron-fist policy. Extremists target foreign tourists and banks to deprive the government from necessary sources of income. They also believe banks are against the rules of Islam, which prohibit fixed interest rates.

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MARKET PRICES

U.S. senators' wives delegation ends visit with high praise of QAF development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of wives of U.S. senators completed a one-week visit to Jordan Saturday with high praise for the work of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), according to a QAF statement.

"The Queen Alia Fund is an inspiration to peoples of countries all over the world. It demonstrates the value of volunteer organisations, helping people help themselves," said Mary Johnston, wife of Senator Bennett Johnston, chairman of the senate armed services committee.

Invited by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma to learn about Jordanian society, its social and economic development and particularly Jordanian women's role in such, the delegation was introduced first-hand to the work of QAF.

The group visited an exhibition of products of individuals participating in QAF's income-generating and productive projects including those based on traditional skills and using resources available in the beneficiaries' environment.

The delegation also visited two of the more than 40 community development centres established by QAF in needy urban and rural areas across Jordan. At the Princess Basma Centre for Social Services in Eidoun, the American women attended a Rural Market, a pioneering scheme that gives local women the opportunity to sell their agricultural and



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and her guests, a delegation of wives of U.S.

Senators, Friday tour facilities of the Disi Social Community Development Centre opened that day (Petra photo)

food products. The delegates also had an open discussion at the centre with representatives of the local women's sector.

"The Queen Alia Fund stimulated the self-reliance, independence and economic security of Jordanian women, which is the first step towards political maturity," said Nancy Murkowski, wife of Senator Frank Murkowski of the senate energy committee.

The delegation also attended the opening of the Disi Social

Community Development Centre on the edge of Wadi Rum. The centre serves several localities and Bedouin tribes by offering community development as well as women's and children's programmes, said the QAF statement.

In conjunction with the opening of the centre, the women also visited the Wadi Rum Agricultural Project, which is a successful example of a "greening the desert" scheme, said QAF.

According to Princess Basma, "this visit contributed extensively to furthering the understanding of the American people of Jordan as a country, its people and efforts made in the field of development as well as cementing the friendship between the American and Jordanian people."

The delegation was accompanied on the visit by Virginia Egan, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley William Egan.

The operatic beauty of Katia Ricciarelli to shine over Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the firmament of music stars, where opera singers shine even brighter than other musicians, Katia Ricciarelli is definitely one such star.

She belongs to the rare group of talented performers who are gifted with an exception blend made of magnificient vocal possibilities, fine musicianship, great acting beauty and undeniably stage presence.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the National Music Conservatory-Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Italian embassy to Amman will present the Italian Prima Donna Katia Ricciarelli, accompanied on the piano by Professor Vincenzo Scalera, for a one night only benefit performance at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, on Tuesday.

During her brilliant career, of 25 years, Ms. Ricciarelli has sung with Plácido Domingo, José Carreras,



Katia Ricciarelli

will include pieces by Sarti, Vivaldi, Haendl, Rossini (Caozonetta Spagoola, etc.), Tosti, Camani and Puccini ("Tu Che Di Gel Sei Cinta" from Turandot).

Whatever the weather

forecast Tuesday night, for all music lovers, here in Amman the sky will be clear and the stars will shine.

The proceeds of the recital will go to benefit the National Music Conservatory.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Decree approves Abu Odeh appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree Saturday was issued approving a Cabinet decision appointing Jordan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Adnan Ahn Odeh as the Kingdom's non-resident ambassador to Panama. The decree also approves the appointment of Jordanian Ambassador to India Kamal Hasa as the non-resident ambassador to Nepal.

Farmers' debts to be rescheduled

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday said the government will reschedule debts of the

Jordan valley farmers who did not sell their agricultural produce this year. In a meeting with a delegation representing the farmers, Dr. Majali said the government was working on plans to establish a company which comprises all landowners in the Jordan Valley as shareholders in accordance with the size of their property. The company, a public shareholding company, will be charged with establishing a parallel market in the Jordan Valley and will be authorised to manage some agricultural projects, said Dr. Majali. At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the demands and needs of the farmers who have been complaining for several months about their inability to repay their debts.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balka' Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 72902).
- ★ Computer exhibition at the National Amman University.
- ★ Photo exhibition of the Hashemites and the heroic deeds of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan Zaitounah University.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Husam Khader and Rahim Al Shaykh at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Maman Shamma, Khalid Almuz, and Mamdouh Kashlan at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabha. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Fannun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzouz

and Aoun Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abdullah at the Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition by artist Shawkat Al Rubai' at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Utheima (Tel. 826932).

★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.

THE FIRST AMMAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Drama entitled "Kawalees" at the studio theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Firefox" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m. (135 minutes).

LECTURE AND SEMINAR

★ Lecture entitled "Islam and Politics" by Dr. L. Carl Brown, professor of foreign affairs at Princeton University, at the headquarters of the Progress and Justice Party in Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

★ Seminar entitled "Our Culture Vis-a-vis The Challenges of Normalisation" by Dr. Sultan Al Qosous, Mr. Mwaffaq Mahadin, and Mr. Sabhi Taha at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

Obeidat says experience of U.N. handling of Hebron massacre proves might still rules

'Power continues to be the only viable language in the world'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Recent international developments and the emergence of the new world order have had adverse, and dangerous consequences on the security and stability of third world countries, said Senator Ahmad Obeidat, and international forums have produced little in addressing the predicaments of the developing world.

In an address to the 91st International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Paris Saturday, Mr. Obeidat criticised the policies of the major world powers, saying that such policies have helped to deepen the concept among third world nations that power continues to be the only viable language in the world, and that the

interests of the powers, which dominate and influence international resolutions, are held above all other considerations.

He said the U.N. Security Council's handling of regional conflicts and the occupation of other countries by force as well as human rights violations are directed by biased attitudes and double standards.

Senator Obeidat strongly criticised the U.N. Security Council's slow-paced handling of the Hebron massacre.

Furthermore, he said the Security Council failed to take appropriate measures to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Referring to the situation in Iraq, Mr. Obeidat said that the

sanctions are still in place though there are no longer justifications for their continuation.

In Bosnia and in occupied Palestine acts of repression and violence continue unabated as a result of the major powers disregard for the principles of justice and right, added Mr. Obeidat.

Such policies, he said, have dismayed and angered Arab and Muslim nations which are becoming increasingly convinced that the West is determined to weaken them and drain their resources. Mr. Obeidat called on the French Parliamentary Committee, the host group of the IPU meeting to work towards ensuring human rights for all people.

He also appealed to various world organisations to act within the United Nations to achieve justice and peace.



Ahmad Obeidat

TCC, Siemens sign contract for 13,000 telephone lines



Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) acting director Walid Dweik and a representative of the German electronics firm Siemens Saturday sign a contract to install an electronic telephone exchange in Mafrag Governorate (Petra photo)

tion and maintenance of the new exchanges in training courses in Germany.

He said the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is financing the TCC project.

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Jordan Times

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Shulamit bares the 'sin'

SHULAMIT ALONI, leader of the Israeli Meretz party and minister of communication in Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government, has once again become the target of venomous attacks by Zionist religious parties and right-wing groups. Members of the Labour Party, with whom Aloni is allied, and even fellow liberals from Meretz, have not spared her the criticism that is intended mainly to appease the ultra-nationalists and the extremists and cover up for the brutality and blunders of the army, Israel's sacred cow.

Aloni had, in an interview with Radio Israel, levelled the strongest criticism at the army by a serving minister in a long time. She criticised her country's military establishment, which in effect is a senior partner of each Israeli government in setting and executing policies, for its handling of the attack against three Palestinian fighters holed up in a house in the centre of Hebron in which heavy weapons were used resulting in great collateral damage. The minister described the army's operation in a city under curfew as "a celebration that should never have been permitted," in a clear indication of her and many other people's unhappiness over the army's laxity in and disregard for protecting the Palestinians as revealed in testimonies to the commission set up to investigate the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

Aloni also infuriated the Israeli establishment by calling for the removal of Jewish settlers from Hebron because "their settlement is born in sin." "By being there," she said in the interview "they are turning the political dispute into a religious war." That naturally did not sit well with her detractors, since they have been maintaining all along that it is the Arabs and Muslims who seek a religious war, not the Jewish fundamentalists.

Aloni, to her credit, did also talk about the latter, when she reminded fellow Jews that "whoever opened a synagogue in the (Ibrahim Mosque) is guilty of the most vile, ugly provocation." To this, Ariel Sharon retorted that "the only reason we are here is because of ties to our ancient homeland and historical sites like Hebron." Sharon's response reveals the thinking of the Israeli establishment that rejects all criticism from within, especially that which touches on the claims on which the Israeli state was established. However, myopic Israeli leaders should be grateful to Aloni who recognises the shortcomings inherent in the thinking of the Israeli leadership, shortcomings that do not only endanger the Palestinians but the Jews as well. After all, as Aloni herself said, "Let (the Israelis) not forget that the God of the Muslims has many, many more troops than the God of Jews," when referring to religious rights inside Haram Al Ibrahim and elsewhere in Palestine.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DISCUSSING THE Arab League Council meeting in Cairo Saturday Al Dustour daily said that the Arab Nation does not want the foreign ministers meeting there to issue statements and sets of recommendations, but rather announce a decision on taking practical steps towards reestablishing genuine solidarity among Arab countries. The Arabs should rise to the level of the Israeli challenge and must take into account the current atrocities practised by Israel in the occupied territories and Israel's defiance of U.N. resolutions and insistence to hold on to the occupied Arab lands, demanded the daily. The time has come for the Arab regimes to reconcile in view of the common threats to their existence, and the Arab League meeting in Cairo offers a good opportunity for them to do so, said the daily. The paper stressed that the Arabs must take a collective action in the face of Israel's continued attempts to escape the implementation of U.N. resolutions and its continued acts of blackmail against the Arabs and the world community at large, said the daily. It said that Jordan hopes the Arab League Council would open the way for the first step towards solidarity and reconciliation.

TAHER AL Udwani, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, criticised the Ministry of Supply's policies concerning the olive oil supplies noting that the local oil producers are continually facing marketing problems. The ministry does not provide any protection for the oil producers in Jordan and importing Tunisian oil to flood the market, rendering the local production useless, charged the writer. He said that the ministry has lately imported 7,000 tonnes of olive oil from Tunisia, forgetting about its pledge to the local producers that this step would not be taken in order to help them market their own produce. In other countries the government normally allocates funds to promote the sale of the local agricultural products, but in Jordan the Ministry of Supply tends to take measures that are considered detrimental to the interest of our farmers, continued the writer. He said that the Ministry of Supply can now buy the local produce for marketing it in Jordan and abroad so that it can come to the help of the distressed oil producers in Jordan.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

There is still time to review sales tax

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1994

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

The Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament took five weeks of extensive hearings to give its conditional blessing to the sales tax law. The committee introduced many changes in the text of the sales tax law as possible to make a point. The point is that the committee cannot be taken for granted and that it does not have a rubber stamp to approve the governments' requests as they are.

Some of the alterations produced by the committee make sense, such as deferring the second stage of the law (value added tax) for a minimum of five years instead of three, making the list of exempted items part of the law instead of leaving it to the discretion of the Council of Ministers and reducing the registration threshold to JD 100,000 instead of JD 200,000.

But the committee went on to the heart of the law, when it reduced the rate on luxurious goods from 20 per cent to 10 per cent and the general rate from 10 per cent to 7 per cent. It also expanded the list of exempted goods.

With these two changes, the treasury will lose over 40 per cent of the revenue that the tax was supposed to generate. Assuming that the excise rate on certain commodities, such as

cigarettes and alcohol will not be touched, the net loss of revenue will be in the order of JD 45 million a year.

The original list of exemptions was already extensive. It covered 69.7 per cent of the average family budget. Further expansion was not warranted, except for the benefit of the image of the committee as a protector of the poor and limited-income groups.

The main concern of the original law was to preserve price stability, so that the introduction of the law will not result in major price fluctuations. The majority of the commodities were supposed to maintain the same rate i.e., the new sales tax rate will be equal to the old consumption tax rate. The committee disturbed this objective by reducing almost all rates, which will work to the benefit of retailers and wholesalers, not the consumers, because the market already absorbed the present price.

It would have been understood if the committee introduced the rate of 7 per cent or even 5 per cent to be applicable to commodities which were not subject to consumption tax before. But to reduce the tax rate, already in use with no problem, was not necessary socially or justified financially.

It may not be too late to make the correction. The Parliament did not start debating the law and the report of the Finance Committee. For good or bad, it is the practice of the Parliament to debate issues all over again, restarting from zero, and not to depend heavily on the findings and recommendations of the specialised committees. In many instances those recommendations were turned down to the benefit of the original text submitted by the government. Hopefully, this will be the case regarding most of the amendments recommended by the Finance Committee.

The chairman of the committee argued that the proceeds of the sales tax will reduce the deficit of the budget substantially, and that will encourage the IMF to press for further reductions of the deficit; so why not space the reduction of the deficit over more years? This is obviously a bad argument, because it suggests that the IMF is more eager to make Jordan financially independent and self-sufficient than the Finance Committee itself. If an objective is desirable and achievable, we should accomplish it as soon as possible. Once the deficit disappears totally, we shall no more need to have an adjustment programme supervised by the IMF.

Peace talks

For the sake of martyrs and of peace

By Ali Abunimah

I am sure that I was not alone in a deep sense of disappointment and disillusionment when it was announced that the PLO had decided on an early return to negotiations with Israel, only a month after the atrocity committed at the Ibrahim Mosque on the black day of Feb. 25, 1994.

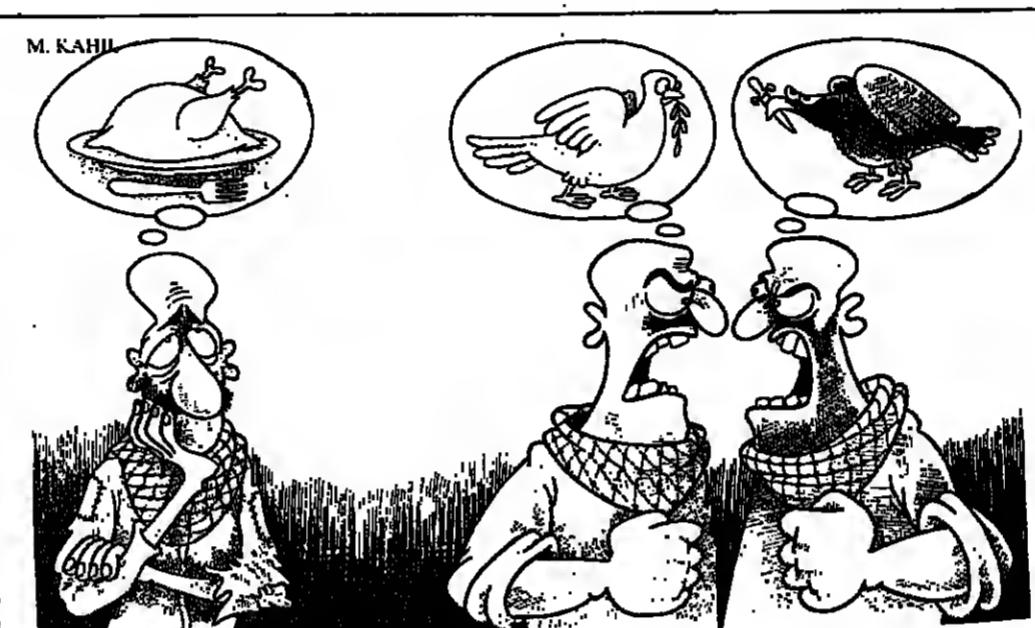
The usual argument deployed by unquestioning supporters of the peace process is to ask "What alternative do we have?" and to brand any of their opponents as extremists and rejectionists. But such people are hiding the full story, and there are several things that must be remembered.

First of all, the Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre, and the U.S. abstention on the paragraph calling Jerusalem an occupied territory, deals an historic blow to the Arab cause. By acquiescing this sharp resolution, the PLO has given a blessing to the long-standing Israeli claim that Jerusalem shall be its "united and eternal" capital city.

Recall that on Nov. 27, 1989, then U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Representative Thomas Pickering, stated to the U.N. General Assembly, that:

"Since the end of the 1967 war, the United States has regarded Israel as the occupying power in the occupied territories, which includes the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The United States considers Israel's occupation to be governed by the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the protection of civilian populations under military occupation" (testimony before 3rd committee of UNGA, Nov. 27, 1989).

The Clinton administration's threat to veto the Hebron resolution if it is not allowed to abstain on the clause repeating exactly the position given by Mr. Pickering with regard to Jerusalem, gives the lie to American claims that it is an honest broker. If the peace process is bearing fruit, then it is a bitter fruit indeed. The PLO should have pointed out the hypocrisy of the U.S. position and insisted that



Americans reiterate their long-standing position that Jerusalem is in fact occupied. Instead, Israel has been allowed to take a further step forward in fulfilling the historic aims of the Zionist programme.

The second thing we must reflect on is that if in the past seven years there has been any progress at all in the peace process, it is entirely due to the sacrifices made by the martyrs of the intifada and the Palestinian population who continues to offer every resistance to the brutality of occupation and to pay a very heavy price.

"It is insensitive to view the tragedy of Hebron as a political opening. The alternative, however, which tragically seems to be turning into reality, is to allow those martyrs to have perished in vain."

It was neither the skill of leaders, nor the resolutions of Arab summits that brought Israel to the negotiating table, but the increasing political, diplomatic and economic cost of maintaining an inhuman occupation under the floodlights of world attention. Many Israelis compare the effects of the intifada to that of the Vietnam war, on American morale. Israelis

are tired of fear and insecurity, and have come to the realisation that force can kill and maim thousands of individuals, but it can never crush the spirit of a nation. The purpose of Arab participation in the peace process must be to exploit these facts and trends to the benefit of the Arab cause, instead of helping Israel to relieve itself of the pressure it feels, both internally and externally.

By what right do the "heroes" of Oslo sell the achievements of the people, paid in for blood, for such a cheap price? The intifada, like the Resistance in wartime Europe, is one of our greatest political and strategic assets. Now, however, it is being thrown away and thwarted by precisely those people who have gained most in stature from it, and made no sacrifices themselves.

Even those who were most sceptical about the current peace process might have tempered their grief and anger at the Hebron massacre with some hope. Hope that the intolerable situation that it exposed, and the truths about the nature of the occupation, might finally provide a real opportunity for the PLO to capitalise on the world's sympathy and outrage, to squeeze from Israel the minimum concessions on matters of vital principle necessary to guarantee the credibility of the peace process.

It is true that the negotiations must continue, but they

must be based on radically different premises. First, the PLO must abandon the notion that negotiation is synonymous with capitulation. Second, the PLO must demand from Israel a clear statement about what lies at the end of the tunnel. If Israel is so keen on peace, as Rabin and Peres never tire of saying, then let Israel make clear and substantial concessions.

Though Israel is negotiating from a far stronger position than the PLO, a careful assessment of Israeli aims, past strategies and the character of Rabin himself, could lead to a relatively decent outcome for the Palestinians. While Arab strategic assets are few, they are, like the intifada, important ones. They must be used wisely and not squandered in empty gestures for the sake of short-term personal gain.

Sadly though, for reasons that are hard to understand, the PLO has thrown the present opportunity to the wind. Some may say that it is insensitive to view the tragedy at Hebron as a political opening. The alternative, however, which tragically seems to be turning into reality, is to allow those martyrs to have perished in vain. If that comes to pass, then all of us, not just the PLO, must bow our heads in shame.

Ali Abunimah is a doctoral student at the University of Chicago, Dept. of Political Science. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Removing settlements removes economic, security burdens on Israel

By Gershon Baskin

THERE IS a significant misconception among Israelis and Palestinians alike that the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DOP) signed in Washington on Sept. 13 precludes the possibility of confronting the settlements issue now without "opening up" the document itself.

This argument is even made by those directly involved in the negotiations. Prime Minister Rabin has stated on more than one occasion that the settlement question is a final-status issue and therefore can only be dealt with in three years' time.

Yasser Arafat and other PLO officials have said that the DOP must be opened up in order to deal with settlements now.

The truth is that it is possible to begin negotiations now over

the status of the settlements. The provisions for this are within the text of the DOP itself. The agreement does not state that final-status negotiations will begin three years into the process. Rather, it states: "They will commence as soon as possible, but no later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period."

With regard to the interim period itself, the DOP does not say that it will last five years, but that it is a period "not exceeding" five years.

The only direct mention of the future status of the settlements in the DOP is not with regard to their staying in place for five years. Rather, the settlements are defined as one of the final-status issues which will be negotiated "as soon as possible."

The DOP states that until the final status of the settlements is defined, Israel will retain full responsibility for their security.

It is clearly understood by both sides that the settlement issue is the most complex aspect of the internal security discussions. The settlements themselves place a huge burden on the Israeli army and security forces. They also place a huge burden on the economy.

The advantages of moving into further negotiations on the issue now are quite clear. It would strengthen the hand of the PLO and the few remaining supporters of the DOP within the Palestinian ranks.

Removing problematic settlements in the midst of the Palestinian population (Hebron, Jericho, Kfar Darom and Netzarim, etc.) would alleviate one of the key security and economic burdens on Israel. A major source of Israeli agents provocateurs opposed to the DOP would also be removed, thereby limiting the likelihood of violent clashes.

Within the Israeli public

there is already widespread disillusionment with the "Greater Land of Israel" vision. Nearly one-third of the settlers are willing to leave if the government would only help them do so. Once the possibility of leaving opens up, many more settlers will follow. This is particularly true of the 68 settlements containing fewer than 50 families.

The entire peace process would benefit from confronting the settlement issue now.

The prime minister needs no longer hide behind what the DOP says or doesn't say.

Moving on this issue now would turn the Hebron massacre from a tragic event into a pivotal moment that brings peace closer.

The writer is Israeli director of the Israel/Palestine Centre for Research and Information. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

Selling the sales tax

To the Editor:

A roundtable debate over the sales tax which took place late last week at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, in which the participants were (Engineering Association President) Laith Shbeilat, (economist) Fahed Fanek, (customs Director) Mohammad Al Jamal and (Director of Consumer Society) Mohammad Obeidat revealed a number of points that could be of interest to your readers:

— It was obvious throughout the debate that opposite sides of the debate (Mr. Shbeilat and the majority of the audience on one side, and the three other participants on the other) were using the issue at hand to express their views regarding the government's general socio-economic policies, which the former group was clearly against and the latter was for.

— The supporters and peddlers of the sales tax, led by Dr. Fanek, used two main arguments. One is that this law is something we cannot avoid because it is imposed on us and that the consequences of its rejection by Jordan would be devastating to the economy, an argument the government avoids to publicise. The second argument is that the effect of this tax would be minimal on the low-income groups and average on the middle class, while the main burden would fall on the shoulders of the rich.

The fact that this tax is imposed on commodities and services and not on certain sectors of the society leads one to think that the supporters and peddlers of this tax, by using such an argument, are encouraging social discrimination and consolidating class separation. In other words, it sounds as if these people are saying that the poor should not eat, drink, wear or use any of the commodities and services used by the middle and upper classes. The middle class then has the same problem as the poor vis-a-vis the upper class. The two lower classes should not even aspire to move up the "social ladder."

— When the supporters of the sales tax posed the question of what alternatives we have, they were barraged with answers, such as cracking down on corruption, cutting government expenditure, improving the collection of income and other taxes (which are imposed on certain sectors of society and not on commodities and services), supporting local industries and agriculture, and so on.

In conclusion, it seems that despite the long time the proposed sales tax has been under the microscope and despite the extreme external pressure we are facing to legislate it into law, a more frank, professional, scientific and open debate should be carried out concerning the whole issue, in conjunction with the overall socio-economic policies of our country, in a bid to get the facts of the effect of such a law on all sectors of society and all sectors of the economy.

If last Thursday's debate showed anything, it was that everybody had a conflicting set of figures, information and arguments which each one considered as fact.

Mohammad Atiyeh, Amman.

Jordan's lead

To the Editor:

I want to make a few general remarks about three articles by Dr. Ahmad Majdoubi, "The new Arab order" (Jordan Times, Dec. 30-31, 1993), "Arab reconciliation: The need for a summit" (Jan. 27-28, 1994) and "The Yemeni agreement, the emerging Jordanian role in the Arab Nation" (Feb. 24-25, 1994).

a) One should notice that the points dealt with are about the common Arab good, regardless of the various attitudes and orientations; in the end, the message contained in the said articles has, I am sure, reached the very heart of the Arab society.

b) The articles are a serious endeavour by the author to remind us of some of our recent problems, which we (often) ignore. Also, he offers a new perspective on how to bring about solutions for addressing the Arab situation.

c) The articles are neutral and reject bigotry and naive patriotism.

Majali briefs Cabinet on talks with U.S. envoy

(Continued from page 1)

consent to the entry of Palestinian police force to Gaza and Jericho and Hebron even before a final arrangement had been reached.

According to Dr. Anani, the prime minister also discussed with Mr. Ross the powers that would be transferred to Palestinian autonomy authorities throughout the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the exception of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements.

Dr. Anani said that during Saturday's session the Cabinet reviewed "campaigns levelled against Jordan by external parties."

He said the ministers briefly reviewed a statement by the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International, noting that the statement had Jordan for the democratisation process and political developments in the Kingdom.

The statement, however, criticised some of the secondary restrictions imposed by the Press and Publications Law and the executions of some common criminals, Dr. Anani said.

Arab League opens meeting

(Continued from page 1) "astonished" that altering the boycott could even be discussed before peace is achieved and Israel vacates occupied Arab territories.

"This is Syria's position," he said. "And I believe it is the same for the majority of Arab countries."

An Arab League official said that all signals he was receiving indicated the Arabs would uphold all levels of the boycott.

Delegates at the meeting opposed efforts by Oman and Qatar to end the boycott on firms doing business with Israel, a diplomat close to the league said.

The two Gulf oil states recently began "intensive efforts" to ease the embargo, but "this campaign did not win the approval" of other Arab countries because of the Hebron massacre, the diplomat said.

"All the other Arab countries want to maintain the indirect boycott" affecting companies dealing with Israel, the diplomat said.

The speeches at the opening session concentrated on the Hebron massacre.

Speakers demanded that Israel disarm Jewish settlers, dismantle all settlements in the occupied territories and withdraw to the pre-1967 borders immediately.

The PLO's Farouk Kadouni explained why the Palestinians were reluctant to resume talks with Israel on self-rule until they felt Palestinians were safe.

Foreign ministers and representatives from 20 of the 22 league members are attending the meeting — those except Libya and Somalia.

Foreign Minister said Mohammad Said of the Com-

Israel-PLO talks continue

(Continued from page 1) period of time," said the Clinton administration official.

These detachments would begin to prepare the ground for their colleagues by developing installations, communications network and operating routines.

They would also need to sort out day-to-day relations with Israeli forces which would continue to have overall responsibility for security in the territories.

"There is a very strong convergence in terms of recognising the mutual stake that the Israelis and Palestinians had in changing the realities on the ground," the unnamed administration official said. He called it "one of the more encouraging aspects" of the negotiations Israel and the PLO are holding with the assistance of American, Egyptian and Norwegian diplomats.

Bouez says peace talks with Israel are sterile

(Continued from page 1)

The Lebanese government supported resistance against Israel as long as the Jewish state maintained troops in the nine-kilometre-deep buffer strip in South Lebanon, he said.

"Any country in the world that does not have firm guarantees or does not have the means to liberate its land through diplomatic channels or through its army cannot prevent or fight its people when they want to liberate their land."

"What we demand is an

Jordan firm on assigning responsibility

(Continued from page 1)

Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque on Feb. 25.

The resolution reaffirmed that Jerusalem was part of the Israeli-occupied territories, but Washington abstained on that part of the draft when it was voted on paragraph by paragraph. The resolution as a whole was then adopted without a vote.

Referring to Mr. Abu Odeh's reported remark, the PLO mission expressed "its astonishment over such a statement."

To have "done that would have amounted to total submission to illegitimate requests from the United States administration on this important issue," the statement said.

In the interview with Al Hayat Mr. Abu Odeh reflected statements made by His Majesty King Hussein in an interview with AFP last week, in which he said the U.S.'s abstention during the voting session could have been avoided by not mentioning Jerusalem at all in the resolution by only referring to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 as the areas where the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable.

Dr. Anani said that Jordan felt that the Security Council resolution could not be seen only from the perspective of what its wording was but had to be judged by its ramifications and the reaction it invoked.

"One looks at the content of the resolution and also reactions it brings," Dr. Anani said.

He explained that Jordan had considered the reaction towards the resolution when it assessed its position from the inclusion of the wording on Jerusalem and the U.S. abstention on that part.

"Had the U.S. vetoed that part, then I would have said that it was not a good decision," Dr. Anani said. "If everyone agrees, including the U.S., then I would have considered it a gain."

"But when there is an abstention, then it is obvious that the issue has been left for future debate, and that is what happened," he said.

The information minister, who has played a key role in Israel's negotiations with Jordan, said that a chain of reactions was caused by the U.S. abstention on the Jerusalem part of the resolution.

"First, several Israeli officials considered the U.S.'s position a new one towards Jerusalem," favouring Israeli claims that the city, annexed by Israel shortly after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was its "eternal and united" capital.

The second reaction was from Washington's ambassador to the U.N., Madeline Albright, who, in a speech she delivered to the Security Council in reference to the resolution, said that the U.S. does not consider territories occupied in the 1967 war as "occupied Palestinian territory."

The third reaction was from American Jewish leader Leicester Pollack, who after a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton along with 50 other Jewish leaders, quoted the U.S. president as saying that he and his administration consider Jerusalem "the united capital of the State of Israel."

The fourth reaction was from Mr. Clinton himself. Dr. Anani pointed out that while the U.S. president said that his position on the status of Jerusalem had not changed, "he did not refute his statements to preempt the U.S. abstention."

"He left the whole issue to

Accord reached on cargo inspection at Aqaba

(Continued from page 1) officials here describe as overzealous enforcement of the sanctions, proposed early this year that the inspections be carried out at Aqaba port by an international agency. The proposal was viewed positively by American administration officials, according to sources.

However, follow-up action on the proposal was at snail's pace, and Jordan was enraged by what appeared to be an escalation of the inspections and tightened guidelines imposed by the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea.

At least seven Aqaba-bound vessels, including the Skymen, were denied permission to enter the Gulf of Aqaba by the enforcers of the sanctions since January this year compared to 20 during the whole 1993.

The Jordanian government repeatedly protested to the U.S. as well as the U.N. Sanctions Committee against the

Political scientists, historians conference

(Continued from page 1) agree on the principle of negotiations and a peaceful settlement," he said.

Husni Sheyab, of the University of Jordan, asked why would the U.S. exclude all other democracies in the region and elsewhere and concentrate only on Israel.

Speaking from the audience Abdo Amawi, of the Applied Sciences University, said "if Israel is such a democratic country, why don't we invite it to invade the whole of the Arab World?"

Khaled Mismar, the head of the Palestinian Information Office in Amman, attempted to refute the argument that Israel is a model of democracy and countered that the mechanism of decision-making in Israel is directly linked to its prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. "Even in its direct negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Rabin controls the whole process and he is the sole decision-maker," he said.

In his speech titled "American Strategy and the Internal Developments in the Region," Hassan Abu Taleb (Ahram) said the U.S. divides the countries in the region into the following categories: friendly states (such as Jordan, Egypt and Morocco) which it supports; the neutral countries (such as Syria) which in order for it to become a friendly state must adopt internal political openness and consideration for the U.S. interests in the region; the enemy states (such as Iraq and Libya and recently Sudan); and finally marginalised countries (such as Djibouti and Mauritania).

Mr. Abu Taleb (Ahram) said the U.S. attempts to employ the reality of the Arab states to serve its various interests in the region, such as commitment to the international sanctions against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

Dr. Anani said he believed the inclusion of Jerusalem in the resolution "caused an American reaction and several statements which only contributed to creating more ambiguity and confusion over the status of Jerusalem."

"For these logical reasons, Jordan had a different approach (from the PLO's)," Dr. Anani added, adding that Jordan "supported the resolution as a text and as a decision but that did not mean that we did not believe that this was not necessarily the best resolution."

The second reaction was from Washington's ambassador to the U.N., Madeline Albright, who, in a speech she delivered to the Security Council in reference to the resolution, said that the U.S. does not consider territories occupied in the 1967 war as "occupied Palestinian territory."

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"He left the whole issue to



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Saturday addresses a meeting of political scientists and historians at the University of Jordan organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the university. On the podium are (sitting left to right) Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the

(Photo by Rama Hussein)

political status because it dominates the coalition of the forces which form the economic system," he said.

The conference opened under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali who said that the Jordanian government will look to this meeting not as "just another gathering, but will view it as a milestone in the path towards the promising future."

In the opening session, Sayed Yassin, the director of the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) prefaced his statement by saying that the CSS has in the past two years refocused its work from issues of security and foreign policy towards areas directly related to the country's basic needs.

Former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who presided over the session, highlighted the concept of the "villagisation" of the world brought about by the revolution in communications and telecommunications.

According to Radwan Abdullah of the University of Jordan, the current order is based on political, as well as economic elements. "The United States enjoys a unique

status because it is the in-creasingly isolated and defiant North Korea repeatedly warned of war over international efforts to curb its nuclear ambitions.

According to Fawzi Gharibeh, president of the University of Jordan, the task of facing national and regional issues is not the sole responsibility of the government but rather it is the responsibility of establishments and individuals.

Dr. Gharibeh said that the 3-day conference is a further step in the direction of this orientation.

Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) prefaced his statement by saying that the CSS has in the past two years refocused its work from issues of security and foreign policy towards areas directly related to the country's basic needs.

Therefore, Dr. Hamarneh said, it is hoped that this conference will come up with practical solutions that can help in addressing the great challenges facing Jordan and the region.

About 30 Arab political scientists and historians from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya are participating in the conference.

N. Korea says Japan is not safe

(Continued from page 1)

rium to make up to two nuclear weapons.

The British military journal also said North Korea appears to have obtained enough plutonium

to make up to two nuclear weapons.

In a special report Jane's

intelligence review said foreign estimates of how much plutonium the country now had ranged as high as 40 kilograms, with this possibly rising up to 3,000 kilograms by the year 2000.

Tensions mounted rapidly



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GATT chief says world trade rules will protect poor, weak

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Indian
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vows to
fight inflation

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has said that inflation would not be allowed to gain further strength.

"This challenge will be met," he said, speaking about worries that inflation could creep back up to double digits.

"Inflationary expectations will not be allowed to gain further strength," Mr. Singh added in a speech at the opening of a two-day conference on the Indian economy, organised in New Delhi by Euromoney magazine.

The annual inflation rate rose in 9.05 per cent in the week ended March 5, crossing the nine per cent mark for the first time in 69 weeks.

The inflation rate began falling from a high of almost 17 per cent in August 1991 after the government initiated a series of economic reforms in July that year.

The annual rate at the end of the 1992/93 fiscal year ending in March 1993 was seven per cent against 12.8 at the end of the 1991/92 year.

Mr. Singh said India now had foreign exchange reserves of more than \$17 billion and food grain stocks of almost 23 million tonnes. The exchange reserves were equivalent to seven months of imports.

He said if necessary the government would use the foreign exchange to import supplies of essential commodities to stabilise prices.

Last week the government allowed sugar imports to check rising prices because domestic production was expected to fall by 200,000 tonnes in the crop year ending in September.

Mr. Singh also said the government would strictly control its own spending.

He said the first phase of India's three-year-old reform programme was almost complete.

The budget for fiscal 1994/95 was designed to stimulate growth, restructure taxation and integrate the economy with the global trading system, he said.

Mr. Singh said the reforms had given the country new confidence and Indian industry, protected for almost five decades, had to learn to compete internationally.

"Indian industry has to shed its inferiority complex, I believe Indian industry is fully capable of meeting the global challenge," he stressed.

In the current year, India will bring in \$2 billion in foreign direct and portfolio investments in addition to \$3 to \$3.5 billion raised on the Eurostock market by Indian companies.

He predicted that for the developing world the accords would "encourage development of agriculture, the textile and clothing industries, and open them up to new industry through relocation by industries seeking cheaper labour."

"The most important area of the new rules is that they will protect the poor and weak from the law of the jungle," he said.

He said the GATT accords to be signed next month in the south Moroccan city of Marrakesh "will be more important for developing countries than for anybody else."

"We are seeing the biggest revolution in the world in eco-

nomic terms, for a population of perhaps five billion, with a system that provides an umbrella of rules to protect everybody," he said.

"There has been a seductive appeal in protectionism to maintain employment," he said. "It was the policy of 'beggar my neighbour' but job creation is export-led. There are prospects for dynamic opportunities with the expansion of trade."

After discussing arrangements for the signing ceremony with King Hassan of Morocco on Friday night, Mr. Sutherland

land said foreign or trade ministers from 120 countries would sign the accords which run to 20,000 pages.

The ceremonies on April 15 will also be attended by associate states including Russia and China and delegates from 27 international organisations.

It is expected about 30 countries will be able to ratify the accords immediately in Marrakesh. The objective is to implement them under the World Trade Organisation by Jan. 1 next year.

FRANKFURT (R) — The central banks of both Germany and France pledged Friday to continue the fight against inflation but made clear they would seek the scope to cut interest rates again whenever possible.

In speeches to a Franco-German financial markets conference in Frankfurt, the governors of the two central banks also underscored the importance of monetary cooperation between France and Germany as an anchor of European integration.

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer told a half packed conference of bankers and monetary officials that Germany's fight against inflation was not over and the central bank could not ignore the potential inflationary threat of surging money supply.

But he added, "we will of course continue to test whether there is scope for rate cuts." Interest rate cuts could not,

however, be carried out at the risk of fueling inflation.

A policy of rushed rate cuts would not be in line with the aim of reducing inflationary expectations and making sure that no new inflationary expectations emerge, Mr. Tietmeyer said.

Echoing Mr. Tietmeyer's comments, Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet, also stressed that the French central bank's primary aim was maintaining monetary stability.

But he noted a cut in the French intervention rate to six from 6.10 per cent on Thursday showed the trend to easier money in both France and Europe had not been interrupted.

"The Bank of France will pursue its cautious and prudent policy of rate cuts," he said, emphasising, like the Germans, that this would be done in a way to ensure monetary stability.

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China beefs up controls on prices, investments

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government has decided to impose emergency measures to control prices and investments in a bid to keep inflation below 10 per cent this year, the official press said Friday.

A decree published in the major newspaper said that inspection teams would be sent out to all the provinces in order to monitor price switching caused by suspected speculation.

The operation would start in April and last for three months, it said.

Other teams will be tasked with monitoring investment in fixed capital, which was to a large degree to blame for inflation last year that averaged 14 per cent, reaching more than 20 per cent in the cities.

Inflation for the first two months to 1994 has been put at 20 per cent, and experts are skeptical that the government

can meet its target of keeping price rises below 10 per cent.

The text of the decree said: "The country enjoys political stability and economic prosperity, but prices have risen very quickly and the masses are worried."

It said that "certain enterprises have increased their prices under the pretext of economic reforms, and certain businesses do not respect the listing of prices."

The monitoring will apply to about 20 products, mainly food staples, but also on the prices of some raw materials that have recently soared.

The government has warned of heavy fines, and the withdrawal of trading licences, for those to blame for fuelling the listing of prices."

The results of the operation will be made public by July 20.

Meanwhile, the State Statistical Bureau (SSB) has reported good and bad news for

the first two months. Industrial output grew by 18.2 per cent and capital construction surged by 41.8 per cent, both dangerously high but still lower than the figures for all of 1993.

Retail prices are the most critical area, being the main yardstick by which China's 1.2 billion people judge the performance of their communist leadership.

For 35 major cities the inflation figures were even worse.

Prices rose by 23.3 per cent in January over January 1993 but the report did not give the figure for cities for February.

Asked what the figure was, an official of the SSB's data office said it remained secret. "It was too high and we fear that the people cannot accept it."

The SSB said the price rises were due to an excess money supply, higher prices for raw materials, higher costs for capital and labour and tax control over profiteering and speculation.

It said there was a net increase in the first two months

in the money supply of 13.7 billion yuan (\$1.57 billion), because of an excess issue of money in January — traditionally a time of high consumption before the lunar new year holiday.

The jump in inflation has haunted the debates in parliament, which has been deluged with official communiques stressing that "stability" is a precondition for the success of Beijing's economic reforms.

To the Communist Party "stability" means keeping inflation within a level tolerable to a majority of its citizens and preventing social unrest.

The government failed that test in 1988. Rocketing inflation prompted widespread urban anger which helped fuel the pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen square in 1989.

The report, underlining another government fear, showed that regional and sectoral imbalances grow more pronounced.

Industrial output by state firms in the first two months rose only 1.2 per cent over a

year earlier. Their profits fell and their losses rose, while output of non-state firms rose faster than the national average.

Industrial output in the coastal provinces grew by more than 20 per cent, but output in the three northeast provinces and the western provinces, where the state sector dominates, was lower than 10 per cent.

Despite repeated orders from Beijing to stop new construction projects, the growth of such projects in the first two months rose by a year-on-year 77.5 per cent from 74.1 per cent in the 1993 period.

Some analysts see the continued construction boom, and the associated heavy investment in fixed assets, as calling into question Beijing's ability to map the economic future.

After some 15 years of reform, power has become so decentralised and regional interests so differentiated that it remains to be seen whether Beijing can still simply order up the stability it so badly needs.

Qatar signs \$385m petrochemical projects

1996.

TPL will provide utilities for the projects and set up a nitrogen unit at a cost of \$55 million.

QAPCO's General Manager Hamad Rashid Al Mohand said after the signing ceremony that part of the financing was being arranged by a consortium of banks, Banque Paribas, a unit of CIE Financiere de Paribas, Qatar National Bank, Arab Petroleum Investment Corp. (APICORP) and Gulf International Bank.

QAPCO is seeking a syndicated loan of \$200 million to finance the expansion, he added, "the arrangers will contribute \$120 million and the rest will be syndicated among local and regional banks."

The remaining financing will be raised from internal reserves and cash flow of QAPCO during the next two years, he said.

Final agreement with the

banks will be signed in early May.

A syndication manager said earlier this month that 11 banks have pledged \$231 million in loans to QAPCO to part-finance the new chemical plants.

Pierre Imhof, general manager of Banque Paribas' Doha branch, said the credit was \$31 million more than QAPCO had asked. "QAPCO will now decide whether it would like to retain the excess subscription or negotiate a cut."

He named the other banks as Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Bank of Kuwait in the Middle East, British Bank of the Middle East, Arab Bank, Al Ahli Bank of Qatar, Doha Bank and the Commercial Bank of Qatar.

Mr. Mohand said QAPCO's main market was the Middle East and South East Asia and with the new expansion it will reach new markets in Africa.

JORDANIAN FINANCIAL MARKET	
OPENING BANK CENTER AMMAN - BURJALI	
TELEPHONE: 660178 / 664370 FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS 26/03/1994	
COMPANY'S NAME	
SHARDED PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
25	25
ABRA BANK	100,500 104,000 121,500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,000 4,000 4,000
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3,200 3,200 3,200
THE MONTEZI BANK	3,200 3,200 3,200
JORDAN SECURITY BANK	3,200 3,200 3,200
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	3,200 3,200 3,200
JORDAN NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK	3,200 3,200 3,200
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	4,000 4,000 4,000
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JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,000 4,000 4,000
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JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	4,000 4,000 4,000
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JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING LINES	4,000 4,000 4,000
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Bosnian Serbs step up campaign against Turkish U.N. troops

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs Saturday stepped up their campaign to prevent Turkish troops being sent to join U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, warning the planned deployment could have "fatal consequences."

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, unable to muster the forces he needs to supervise Bosnian ceasefires, has reluctantly agreed to accept Turkish troops, seen as pro-Muslim by Serbs.

Moncilo Krajisnik, a hard-line member of the Serb leadership, also cited the 500-year Ottoman occupation of Bosnia in a letter of protest to the U.N.

"Turkey has... openly sided with the Muslim side," he said. "The Serb Republic parliament charged me with warning you of the fatal consequences of this action."

The U.N. has found fewer than half of the additional troops that peacekeeping commanders want to preserve ceasefires in Sarajevo and central Bosnia while diplomatic efforts to end the two-year war continue.

Special U.S. envoy Charles Redman reached the Bosnian capital for talks with the

Muslim-led government on the implementation of a U.S.-crafted Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia.

The Bosnian Croat parliament was expected to approve the plan Saturday and the mainly-Muslim Bosnian parliament to follow suit Monday.

Bosnian Serbs who control 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic have refused to join the federation or even continue talks on alternatives until the United Nations lifts sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia.

The peace process headed for an impasse when the United States Friday ruled out lifting the sanctions, imposed because Yugoslavia armed, organised and financed the Serb-led Yugoslavia.

"We are... prepared to discuss the phased easing of sanctions once there is an agreement that has been reached and it is in the process of being implemented and the international community is satisfied it's being implemented," U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

But he indicated the U.S. government had not lost hope that Mr. Redman and influential

Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin could cajole the Serbs into a form of federation that would get a settlement back on track.

Muslim and Croat forces hardened their ceasefire in central Bosnia with an agreement to crack down on snipers whose random attacks sow civilian terror and guarantee free traffic on roads.

Snipers will be arrested and handed over to the authorities for trial in future.

Muslim and Serb forces accused each other of continuing attacks in northern Bosnia, which has become the main war theatre since the ceasefires took hold elsewhere.

British U.N. troops in the Maglaj pocket in the region reported they destroyed a Serb bunker which fired on them Friday.

Peacekeepers' spokesman Simon McDowell said a Warrior fighting vehicle blasted the bunker with its main gun when Serbs manning it ignored warning shots from lighter calibre weapons.

He reported Serb forces around Sarajevo continued to disrupt aid convoys despite agreements to let them move freely.

The top civilian U.N. official for the former Yugoslavia said Friday he was optimistic about the chances for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Yasuaki Akashi, Dr. Ghali's special envoy to the Balkans.

"For the first time in almost two years, the peace is beginning to break out," he told the U.N. Security Council.

However, more peacekeepers were needed to consolidate the progress, he said.

Mr. Akashi warned against overconfidence, saying that the current lull in fighting and move towards a peace settlement was fragile. "Mutual distrust is still very deep," he said.

Bosnian Serb shelling of Sarajevo stopped following a North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) ultimatum in February. More recently, the formation of a Bosnia Muslim-Croat federation ended sporadic fighting between those two parties.

The U.N. Council began considering the future of its peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia Friday. The force's current mandate expires Thursday.



The body of a man killed Friday night lies in the street in Bambayi township in Durban after a massive ANC march Friday (AFP photo)

S. African rightwingers declare Pretoria capital of white homeland

PRETORIA (AFP) — A depleted Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) Saturday mustered about 3,000 followers to proclaim Pretoria capital of a "Volkstaat," the separate white homeland South African rightwingers are demanding.

With the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) ordered to stay away and its founding members gone to the pro-election Freedom Front, the remaining Conservative Party hardliners gathered to hear leader Fergi Hartzenberg claim that it was "just us and the Zulu nation left to defend our freedom."

"And we will not be responsible for the chaos that is certain to erupt if we do not get what we want," a Volkstaat, he told the khaki-clad Afrikaners. "First it was Bophuthatswana, then it was Ciskei, next it will be KwaZulu and then, my friends, it will be us."

The newly proclaimed Volkstaat capital of Pretoria was named after Dutch settler Andries Pretorius, hero of the Battle of Blood River in Natal province where he and 470 settlers routed a 12,500-strong Zulu army in a final confrontation in 1838 in a bid for domination in the province.

Despite the absence of the unruly AWB, in disgrace for its unruly behaviour in Bophuthatswana where members tried to prop up Mr. Mangope, rightwingers Saturday still targeted black journalists.

South African soldiers moved into a squatter settlement south of Durban Saturday after four people, including two toddlers, were shot in the face of a revolt by his security forces.

In a hint that the same fate may befall Mangosuthu Buthelezi's KwaZulu homeland, President F.W. De Klerk

Thursday said he would send military reinforcements to the Zulu stronghold in the face of the Inkatha Freedom Party

leader's virulent anti-democracy stance.

In a bitter split over whether or not to contest South Africa's first all-race election on April 26-28, AVF founder Constand Viljoen abandoned Mr. Hartzenberg and formed the Freedom Front.

"It is just us and the Zulu nation that is still standing," Mr. Hartzenberg said. "We are much stronger than the rest and we will fight to the bitter end."

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settlers routed a 12,500-strong Zulu army in a final confrontation in 1838 in a bid for domination in the province.

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Thursday said he would send military reinforcements to the Zulu stronghold in the face of the Inkatha Freedom Party

Police said four people including two toddlers had been shot dead in the impoverished settlement Friday night after about 100,000 ANC supporters marched through central Durban calling for the freedom to vote in strife-torn Natal province.

The children were believed to be from an Inkatha-supporting family and at least one of the other victims was from the ANC, police said.

Police and peace monitors expected factional violence to flare in townships around Durban after the ANC march.

Natal and the enclaves of the KwaZulu black homeland within the province, heartland for South Africa's nine million Zulus, have seen some of the worst political violence of the past four years of apartheid reform. About 15,000 people have been killed there.

The ANC said the turnout for the march was a ringing confirmation that Zulu wanted to participate in the April 26-28 elections, in which the country's five-to-one black majority will vote for the first time.

President De Klerk met Mr. Buthelezi in Durban Saturday in a bid to convince him to allow electioneering for South Africa's first all-race poll next month, a spokesman for the ruling National Party said.

The spokesman would not give further details of the private meeting.

Hong Kong firm to build world's tallest building

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong property firm plans to build the world's tallest building as a sign of confidence in the colony's future after China resumes sovereignty in 1997, the firm's chairman said Saturday. Nina Wang, head of Chinachem Group, said the 1,544-foot (468-metre) office building to be completed in 1998 would be named "Nina Tower" after her. Work on the skyscraper, which will cost about 10 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.28 billion), has already begun close to Hong Kong's new airport planned for completion around 1997. "Anyone coming in and out of Hong Kong will see it," Ms. Wang said in an interview. The building will eclipse the 1,434-foot (436-metre) Sears Tower in Chicago, currently the world's tallest building. It will also surpass the planned 1,508-foot (457-metre) Chongqing Tower in Chongqing, southwest China, and the 1,485-foot (450-metre) Petronas Tower under construction in Kuala Lumpur, the company said.

Early Turner paintings turn up in British attic

LONDON (R) — Two early watercolours depicting Stonehenge and the Pyramids by 19th century British painter J.M.W. Turner have turned up after lying for years in an attic, the Daily Telegraph reported Saturday. The pictures, to be auctioned in London in May, were painted in 1822 for one of Turner's most important patrons, amateur antiquarian Walter Fawkes. Fawkes was a descendant of Guy Fawkes, who tried to blow up parliament in the failed "gunpowder plot" on Nov. 5, 1605. Although creased down the centre and highly inaccurate, the pictures are very detailed, the Daily Telegraph said. "It's quite funny really. Turner simply rearranged reality to suit his needs. He had never been to Egypt," said Nigel Kirk of auctioneers Mellers and Kirk in Nottingham, northern England. He said an elderly woman brought the watercolours to him last year. Her family had acquired them in 1940 and records show they were last sold in 1890. "They are absolutely genuine and have value as curiosities," said Ian Warrell of London's Tate Gallery that owns most of Turner's work. The pictures are expected to fetch tens of thousands of sterling when they are auctioned on May 26.

Police impound cyclist's wheels

COLOMBIA, Ohio (AP) — A 30-year-old cyclist found himself without wheels when police decided he was drunk and confiscated his bicycle under a new state law. Ronald Beuchert, who has already been convicted three times for drunken driving, lost control of his bicycle as he rode to an alcoholic anonymous meeting and swerved into an oncoming car. He refused to take a sobriety test and police charged him with drunken driving and impounded his bike. Under the new law cyclists are considered the same as motorists. Mr. Beuchert got his bike back in time to ride to court on Monday.

Tyson fails test

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Former heavyweight boxing champ Mike Tyson has received some bad news going into his third year in jail: He failed a test that would have won him a high school diploma and shaved time off his sentence. Phil Slavens, assistant director of the Indiana Youth Centre, said Friday that Tyson will get another chance to try the test in three months. More than a diploma is at stake. If he passes the test Tyson could get three months cut from his prison sentence when the date for his parole rolls around a year from now. "He will remain in school and work on the areas in which he was deficient," Mr. Slavens said. He said Tyson got the bad news Thursday. It was two years ago Saturday that Tyson, 27, was jailed after being convicted of rape. By some accounts in the time since, he has become an introspective convert to Islam, vastly different from the swaggering celebrity who thought, along with his lawyers, that an appeal would free him shortly after he was sentenced. But rather than riding out his appeals in the comfort of his Ohio Mansion, Tyson has been confined to the youth centre along with 1,200 other inmates whose crimes have lost one appeal after another.

Ukrainians see little hope in elections

KIEV (R) — Ukrainians disheartened by political deadlock and mass poverty go to the polls this weekend with few seeing any prospect of the election outcome producing any improvement.

President Leonid Kravchuk predicted the election would produce a "less than full-blooded parliament" and said he would seek additional powers to ensure order and proceed with the country's largely undeveloped reforms.

The first round of the poll Sunday has instead generated little interest among voters baffled by an electoral system which could return a crippled parliament, leave more than a hundred seats unfilled and sow political chaos.

Kravchuk, making his third major television appearance in a week Friday, said that parliament, if unable to function, "will turn over its powers on the economy, corruption and fighting organised crime to the president."

The election could also widen the divide between the country's nationalist west and the pro-Russian east and south, which have less than a firm commitment to Ukrainian statehood.

Voters in the eastern Donbas coalfield and in Crimea, dominated by ethnic Russians, will probably return Communists and candidates calling for closer economic integration with Moscow.

They will also vote in separate plebiscites on restoring economic ties with Russia, boosting regional powers and establishing Russia as a state language alongside Ukrainian.

Paramilitary nationalists in western Ukraine could win several seats, filling a vacuum created by voter frustration and the lacklustre performance of 28 splintered political parties.

Economists say the vote is also unlikely to return a bloc of sharp-witted reformers capable of directing the market changes which lag far behind those in relatively prosperous Russia.

The campaign has been dull, with few posters in the streets, only a handful of rallies and no more than a few candidates known to the vast majority of voters.

"Given the conditions of social and economic discontent, many voters will probably reject all the candidates before them," said Alexander Vishnyakov, head of Ukraine's Sociological Service.

Voters in the first round face half papers with up to 31 names. Opinion polls show only about 20 of 450 districts will elect a deputy in the first round by giving the leading candidate the required 50 per cent of votes cast.

A rule invalidating the vote in any constituency with a turnout of less than 50 per cent could leave many seats unfilled even after the second round.

Mexican rebels: Colosio murder prelude to attack

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — Mayan rebels accused hardliners in Mexico's government Friday of being behind the assassination of ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio as part of a strategy to squash democratic reforms.

The hardliners and the military option inside the government planned and brought to completion this provocation to end all the peaceful intent of democratisation of the country, the Zapatista National Liberation Army said in a communiqué from southern Mexico.

The communiqué was the first reaction from the rebels to the killing of Mr. Colosio, 44, who was shot in the head and abdomen Wednesday after a Tijuana campaign rally.

The Zapatistas said hardliners within Mexico's ruling class were opposed to the reforms passed this week by the Mexican Congress that would clean up the country's elections and loosen the grip of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has ruled Mexico since 1929.

Also, they said the hardliners wanted to abandon efforts by President Carlos Salinas De Gortari to bring a peaceful end to the uprising in Chiapas, which was launched in the name of social justice and political empowerment of Mexico's indigenous people.

The same group, the rebels said, is the one that ordered the assassination of (Colosio)... and now tries to top off its infamous action with break-

ing of the ceasefire and the restarting of the war," the communiqué said.

The rebels, who began their New Year's Day uprising by seizing several Chiapas cities, also said there were "clear signals" that the government was planning to move militarily to end the rebellion and accuse the Mexican army of breaking a ceasefire that took effect on Jan. 17.

They said the Mexican army dropped four "incentive devices" containing some kind of gas near a highway in rebel-held territory March 19 and said the army was moving troops into the area in preparation for combat.

The rebels have been negotiating with peace envoy Manuel Camacho Solis since February to end the crisis. At least 145 people died in the early days of the uprising but fighting stopped when a Jan. 17 ceasefire took effect.

Mr. Colosio was buried Friday in his hometown in the northern state of Sonora.

Attorney General Diego Valades said Thursday that Mario Aburto Martinez, 23, confessed to killing Mr. Colosio, but Mr. Aburto would not comment when reporters asked about his motive.

Aburto was transferred to a maximum security prison near Mexico City Thursday night.

Italy to elect a new political class

ROME (R) — Italy's 48.4 million voters pondered their options Saturday after a night of fiery oratory and sporadic violence as one of the bitterest election campaigns in the country's recent history came to an end.

Police reported several minor incidents after Friday night's closing rallies.

In Milan a candidate for the federalist Northern League was attacked shortly before midnight by a gang wearing motorcycle helmets who clubbed him with baseball bats.

Maurilio Frigerio, who is standing for the Senate (upper house), was taken to hospital with cuts and bruises but later allowed to go home, his party said.

In Rome the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) said a small firebomb exploded after being thrown at one of its local offices.

A PDS spokesman also said several of its supporters had come under attack by rightwingers as they were pasting up election posters Friday night.

The attacks came shortly after President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had appealed for Italians to pull together for the good of the country after the divisive campaign.

In a speech to Italy's successful Winter Olympic Games athletes he pointedly stressed the virtues of teamwork.

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House released tax records aimed at painting President Bill Clinton as a distant actor in the Whitewater affair, as a grand jury called another presidential aide to testify about the Arkansas land deal.

White House Staff Secretary John Podesta was subpoenaed Friday to testify in the investigation of the Whitewater Development Corp of Arkansas, which the Clintons once co-owned.

"They paid their interest as they were requested to do," the source said.

The Clintons have consistently said they lost money on the deal and paid proper interest on loans tied to it.

Mr. Podesta is the 12th Clinton

administration official to be called to testify in the probe.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES. SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1994 9

Dominique returns to Atlanta to beat Hawks

ATLANTA (R) — Revenge was sweet for Dominique Wilkins Friday.

Wilkins, star forward for the Hawks for his entire career before being dealt to the lowly Clippers last month, returned to Atlanta for the first time and poured in 36 points to lead Los Angeles to a 97-94 victory over his former club.

Known as "the human big-light film" for his dazzling moves, Wilkins scored 10 of his 36 in the fourth quarter, including the basket that gave the Clippers the lead for good at 93-92.

Wilkins, upset at being traded from serious contenders for whom he had starred for years to the struggling Clippers, also had 10 rebounds despite playing with the flu.

The loss dropped Atlanta into second place in the Eastern Conference playoff race, one game behind New York.

At Indiana, Patrick Ewing had 25 points and 15 rebounds to lead the streaking New York Knicks to their 12th win in a row as they edged the Pacers 85-82.

The Knicks, who claimed sole possession of first place in the Eastern Conference, are in the midst of their second longest winning streak in club history, surpassed only by an 18-game streak during their 1969-70 championship season.

A three-pointer by Reggie Miller pulled Indiana to within one at 83-82 with 16 seconds left.

The Knicks held on as Anthony Mason sank two foul shots and Byron Scott missed a three-pointer for Indiana in the closing seconds.

At New Jersey, the Nets ended a 12-game losing streak against Chicago by crushing the Bulls 110-87.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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NONE BUT THE BRAVE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
+ K 9 4
+ A J 9 6
0 7 2
+ K Q J 10
+ 3 6
9 8 4
9 K 10 2
0 Q 9 10 9 5
+ A Q 8 4 3
+ A 7 5
WEST
+ 7 3
9 8 4
9 K 10 2
0 Q 9 10 9 5
+ A Q 8 4 3
+ 9 6 3 2
SOUTH
+ A Q 10 6 5 2
7 5 3
+ K 6
+ 6 4

The bidding:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 + Pass

2 + Pass 3 + Pass

4 + Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

The key to most hands is counting. When you find that, given time, declarer has enough tricks to make the contract, desperate measures might be called for to snatch victory.

Because of the weak doubleton,

West should not raise partner's spades with only three and a support. South's hand revealed

to me an opening-bid strength, so the invitational three-spade bid was fully warranted. North's boost to

game was automatic. West led the queen of diamonds and East rose with the ace—after all, he had been known to be a singleton. When the monarch did not appear, it was time to review the situation.

Obviously, there were no more diamond tricks than the defenders had, and at most, one club trick. If West held the ace of clubs, then declarer, in addition to the king of diamonds, certainly had to have the ace-queen of spades or queen-jack of spades and queen of hearts to make a game try. What's the best chance for the defense to emerge triumphant?

With a defense that fails to find tricks, it is usually right to play partner for the weakest holding that will produce those tricks. That combination was the queen of hearts and ace of clubs. Since declarer would be able to take discards on clubs once the ace was forced out, it was vital to attack hearts immediately.

Matching the lead to the thought, East shifted to a low heart and dummy's strength. Declarer counted West's queen with the ace, drew a trick and started on clubs, but West popped up with the ace to return a heart. That netted the defenders two heart tricks and a one-trick set.

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Jordan soccer championship brings lots of surprises

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With only four weeks left in the first division soccer championship, the 18th week of the tournament provided fans with a series of surprising results that might well determine the fate of the 12 team competition.

Although the top three positions remained unchanged, the last four teams are now undoubtedly in an unenviable position. With four matches each against top teams, Al Jazireh and Fuheis will have to

score some wins and hope that Al Arabi and Al Baqaa lose so that they can maintain their spots among first division teams. Meanwhile, Sahab and Al Yarmouk in 11th and 12th

place are very close to relegation and will have some tough

opponents in Al Ahli and Al Hussein in upcoming matches.

During the past week, Al Baqaa delighted their fans by scoring an unexpected 2-0 win over Al Hussein. Al Baqaa's players were reportedly awarded JD 1000 by the club and promised of similar bonuses if they scored more, wins.

With the victory, Al Baqaa remained in 7th place, while Al Hussein are fourth.

Titleholders Al Faisali again failed to give their fans something to cheer about when they were held to a 1-1 draw with 9th placed Al Jazireh.

Although Al Faisali have almost clinched the title, their fans and coaching staff must surely be very upset after their

results during the past two weeks, especially their 1-0 defeat to Al Hussein — their first loss of the season.

Al Ahli remained in 3rd place after crushing last placed Al Yarmouk 5-0. The win was an important one for Al Ahli who last week surprisingly lost 2-1 to Al Jazireh and were held to a goalless draw with Al Baqaa.

Al Yarmouk seemed helpless as Al Ahli carried out an all out attack from the outset of the match held at Al Mafrag Stadium.

Strikers Amer Wali, Imad Fataftah and Nart Yadaj scored for Al Ahli in the 18th, 31st and 42nd minutes ending the first half with a commanding 3-0 lead.

Khalil Fataftah took advantage of fragmented defence and netted in the fourth goal in the 65th minute.

Wali was assisted by Husam Hammash in scoring his second and Al Ahli's fifth goal in the 58th minute while Al Yarmouk lost two scoring chances.

In another match, Al Fuheis overcame Sahab 2-1 but remained in 10th place while Sahab's overall points were frozen at 17 and thus stayed in 11th place.

Sahab seemed to have the upper hand throughout the first half and closely guarded Fuheis strikers Wa'd Suweis and Khader Mubarak.

Suweis' efforts paid off as he scored his first goal from a header in the 70th minute and then stunned Sahab when he added another goal in the 81st minute.

Two minutes later, Sahab's ace Mohammad Al Ashhab was tackled and Mohammad Hunefi scored from a penalty shot ending the match with an important win for Al Fuheis.

Al Ramtha dropped from 4th to 6th place after their 3-1 fall to former champions Al Wihdat.

As both teams went on an early offensive trying to score in the first half, Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib was tackled in the box warranting a penalty shot, which was dis-

STANDINGS AFTER 18th WEEK

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Fuheis	18	13	2	2	1	39	10	45
Wihdat	18	8	4	2	4	20	16	34
Ahli	18	8	4	1	5	28	17	33
Hussein	17	7	4	2	4	23	15	31
Qadissieh	18	6	5	3	4	27	20	31
Ramtha	18	8	2	1	7	29	24	29
Baqaa	18	7	2	2	7	18	25	27
Arabi	18	4	6	—	8	23	35	24
Arabis	17	3	7	—	7	20	23	23
Fuheis	18	6	1	1	10	16	30	21
Sahab	18	3	3	2	10	16	26	17
Yarmouk	18	5	—	2	11	18	36	17

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Cambridge win boat race

LONDON (AFP) — Cambridge University won the boat race for the second successive year here Saturday when they trounced Oxford University in the 140th contest. Cambridge, fielding one of their strongest crews for years including two world championship gold medalists in Germany Peter Hoelzenbeijer and Thorsten Streppelhoff, lived up to their tag as favourites with a dominant performance.

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Sato wins women's World Figure Skating Championship

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — With almost flawless precision, Japan's Yuka Sato won the women's World Figure Skating Championship Saturday.

It was the first major international victory for Sato, who used her trademark footwork and hit all of her jumps to skate by Surya Bonaly of France, who took the silver medal.

Finishing third was Germany's Tanja Szewczenko.

Sato is the first Japanese to win a world figure skating championship since Midori Ito won in 1989, and her performance was welcomed by the Japanese crowd with a rain of bouquets and thunderous applause.

For Bonaly, who cried and took off her medal as she stood on the winners' stand, it was a bitter loss.

Sato's victory Saturday was by a close margin. Her scores ranged from 5.7 to 5.9, while Bonaly's were from 5.5 to 5.9.

Five of the nine judges scored Sato as first, compared with four for Bonaly. One judge, however, had Bonaly at third after Szewczenko.

Bonaly, who was also runner-up in last year's world championships, finished a very close second in the shorter technical programme to Sato.

Both landed clean triple lutz-double toe loop combinations in the technicals, prompting Bonaly's coach, Alain Gillett, to suggest Bonaly might try a quadruple — four in-air revolutions — to get the edge in Saturday's free programme.

Al Qadissieh took control of the second half and managed to equalise by Tha'er Ibrahim in the 75th minute.

Al Arabi's brilliant striker Al Omari lost the chance to give his team the win when a definite chance was blocked by Al Qadissieh's veteran goalie Khaled Abdul Fatah.

In the upcoming 19th week of the competition, Al Fuheis take on Al Wihdat, Al Qadissieh meet Al Jazireh, Al Ahli face Sahab, Al Ramtha meet Al Arabi, Al Faisali play Al Baqaa, Al Yarmouk take on Al Hussein, and Al Jazireh meet Al Hussein in a postponed match.

As both teams went on an

early offensive trying to score in the first half, Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib was tackled in the box warranting a

penalty shot, which was dis-

puted by Al Wihdat's officials.

and bench before it was successfully executed by Khaled Al Aqqouri in the 31st minute.

As Al Wihdat repeatedly

tried to score the equaliser, they were infuriated when the referee awarded Al Ramtha another penalty shot.

However, goalie Naser Al

Ghandoor averted another

blocked Abu Hdeib's second

goal.

Al Arabi began their scoring

spree late in the second half and managed to score three goals within seven minutes to maintain second place for now.

The most goals were scored

in the Qadissieh-Arabi match

which ended 3-3, equalising Al

Qadissieh to maintain their

unbeaten record during the

competition.

The most goals were scored

